



Productivity
Board Member
Wanda Riley

Wanda Riley has dedicated the last 54 years to the Departments of Labor & Industries, Licensing, and the Washington State Legislature. She has been a member of the Productivity Board since 1991, the Retired Public Employees Council, and served as an activist with the Washington Federation of State Employees.

QUARTERLY

SPOTLIGHT

Riley has worked with legislators and traveled to Washington D.C. to support health care reforms. Riley also serves on the board of the Thurston, Mason, and Lewis counties Community Action Council (CAC), working to ensure health and housing needs are met for low-income residents in the Olympia area.

Productivity Board Members:

- Governor Gary Locke
- Secretary of State Sam Reed
- State Auditor Brian Sonntag
- General Administration Director Rob Fukai
- Department of Social & Health Services Kathleen Brockman
- PEMCO Financial Services - Retired Mike Kerschbaum
- Speaker of the House Appointee George Masten
- Financial Management Quality Consultant Melodie Olsen
- Federation of State Employees Appointee Wanda Riley
- Council of College Presidents Executive Director Terry Teale
- Department of Personnel Human Resource Manager Christina Valadez

Washington State Productivity Board

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WASHINGTON PRODUCTIVITY BOARD

Office of the Secretary of State

P.O. Box 40244
Olympia, WA 98504

Put your money-saving ideas to work.



Washington
Secretary of State
SAM REED

SMART GOVERNMENT

A NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED BY THE

WASHINGTON STATE PRODUCTIVITY BOARD

October 2003



“Every dollar state employees save is a dollar that can be used to help the people and the programs that are so vital to the citizens of Washington State.”

Christine Gregoire
Attorney General

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Extra Mile winner saves state \$3 million

Mike Sweeney, an employee with the Department of Transportation proposed an idea that has saved Washington State \$3 million.

Sweeney's idea to rebuild the 38th Street bridge in Tacoma in one stage rather than multiple stages saved \$3 million and cut construction by 20 months. Under Sweeney's proposal, the project would completely close the interchange for 10 months rather than two and a half years.

Sweeny was among 12 employees and two teams that received the “Extra Mile Award” last May during Public Service Recognition Week (PSRW), a week long event honoring state employees who surpass expectations by demonstrating innovation, visionary thinking, personal valor, or bravery.

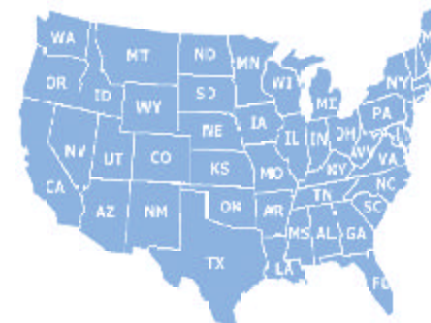


Mike Sweeney, Structural Design Engineer,
Department of Transportation

Frontline employees rescue money-strapped states

In a nationwide budget crises, now more than ever, state and local governments are relying on innovative employee suggestions to save taxpayer dollars.

An Ohio State employee recommended the Department of Transportation purchase a van and install testing components to measure pavement conditions instead of purchasing a vehicle with the equipment already installed.



This is more cost effective because the lifespan of the testing equipment is longer than that of the vehicle. When implemented, the idea saved almost \$57,000.

In Wisconsin, two state employees developed a new weather resistant sealant to use when installing road sensors that calculate vehicle weight on highways resulting in \$563,000 in savings.



2003 Innovation Awards

Tracking Suggestions Across the State

Upcoming Events:

Productivity Board Coordinator Training
• November 18, 2003

Board Meetings
• November 7, 2003
• December 5, 2003
• January 2, 2003
• February 6, 2003

Seahawks State Employees Day
• November 16, 2003

Next Edition:

Public Service Recognition Week

Outstanding Suggestions

Leadership through innovation

Spotlight on Board member Kathleen Brockman

This year 23 employees saved Washington State nearly \$625,000

Since its inception 21 years ago, the Productivity Board has saved Washington State taxpayers more than \$46 million in first-year savings. To date, more than 22,000 front-line employees have improved government through the Productivity Board.

In March, the Productivity Board recognized 23 employees at the annual Innovation in State Government Awards. The ceremony recognized the following state employees:

Employee Suggestion Program

Washington State Patrol: Wilhelmina Boxhoorn, Wendell Prins
Gambling Commission: Bridget Buntin, Cathee Gottfryd, Jessica Iyall, Sharon Matthews, and Dawn Warren
Department of Social & Health Services: Georgiann DeKay, Anita Speir Solveig Tripp
Office of Financial Management: Cheryl Hainje, Millie Lund
Department of Transportation: Dean Hills, Charlie Jensen
Jerry Lowery, Thomas Norris, Cynthia Tremblay, James Walter
Department of Health: Deanna Morgan

Teamwork Incentive Program

Department of Transportation, Automated Translation Improvement Project: Judy Avramis, Linda Barret, John Culhane, Hungling Fu, Bonnie Jacques, Kathy Johansen, Kae Lytle, Judy Maginnis, Danny Mason, Virginia Paynter, Jason Reed, Jim Ruiz, Mary Trotter
Department of Social & Health Services, File Copy Reduction Project: Michelle David, Dawn Delong, Richard Libbey, Brian List, Deborah McEldery, Rhonda Opaka, Solveig Tripp



Secretary of State Sam Reed; Department of Social & Health Services, Georgiann DeKay and Ken Harden

Two named Productivity Board Co-Coordinator of the Year

The Productivity Board awarded two state employees Productivity Board Co-Coordinators of the year. Shannon Reuell and Valerie Gertson were chosen for their outstanding ethic and commitment to help Washington State improve quality, service and efficiency.



Shannon Reuell, Productivity Board Co-Coordinator of the Year

Shannon Reuell began working for the Washington State Liquor Control Board as a Temporary Clerk Typist III. Reuell currently serves as Administrative Assistant III in support of the new Human Resources Director. Reuell takes pride in providing exemplary customer service and participating in innovative changes that are taking place within the agency.



Valerie Gertson, Productivity Board Co-Coordinator of the Year

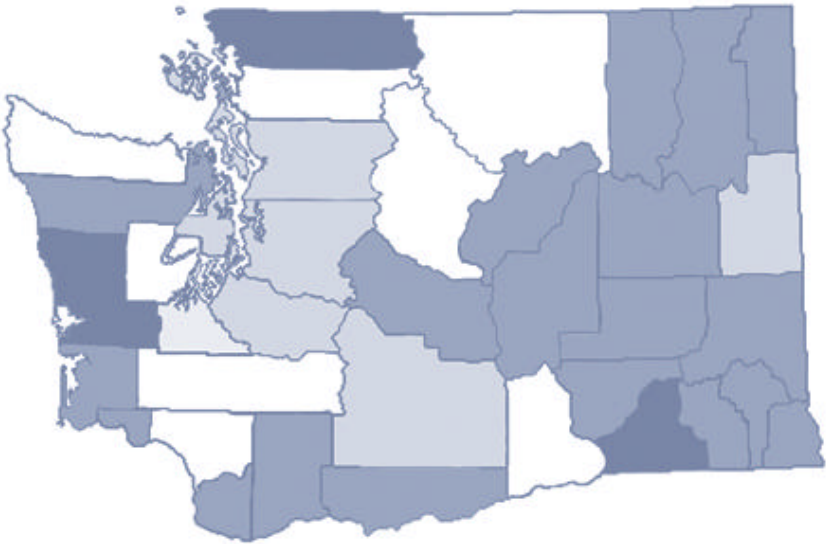
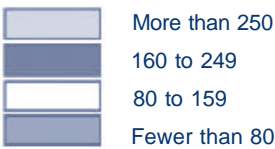
Valerie Gertson has been named Productivity Board Co-Coordinator of the year. Gertson is a Benefits Specialist for the Office of Human Resources and has served as the Productivity Board liason since January 2002.

Gertson has served her community and the state since the early 1980s, working at Timberland Regional Library, Administrative Services Center, Washington State Department of Transportation, and the Office of the Secretary of State.

Employees from every county help improve state government.

Over the last 21 years, more than 22,000 Washington state employees have submitted ideas through the Employee Suggestion Program and Teamwork Incentive Programs.

Track the number of ideas submitted in your county.



Longevity Award recipient dedicated to public service for more than 46 years.

The Longevity Award recognizes employees with at least 25 years of state service.

Despina Varkados was selected for her achievement in May. Varkados has been an employee of the Washington School for the Deaf since 1957. She earned a Bachelors Degree in Deaf Education from Lewis and Clark College and a Master's in Education from the University of Portland. Varkados taught pre-school and high school and in the early 1980s she opened the Outreach Program which she led until three years ago.



Despina Varkados, 2003 Longevity Award Winner.

Employee saves Department of Licensing \$34,000

State government is utilizing innovative document imaging technology to save the state time and money.

Before Georgia Blair, a Customer Service Specialist with the Department of Licensing (DOL), submitted her suggestion to the Productivity Board, the department's prior procedure was to send a written request to the arresting officer in order to receive a DUI report. Many times the report would reach DOL late, resulting in dismissed hearings and lifted driver license suspensions.

Blair's idea changed the way police reports from Driving Under the Influence (DUI) violations were handled, saving the state \$34,000 in first year savings and increasing efficiency in delivering reports to court hearings.

Since implementing Blair's suggestion, DOL has avoided a large number of case dismissals and saved the cost of paper and postage.



Seahawks recognize state employees November 16.

Seattle Seahawks kick-off State Employee Day Sunday, November 16, 2003, as an extended part of Public Service Recognition Week.

Public Service Recognition Week is celebrated each year during the first full week in May, to honor the men and women who serve as federal, state and local government employees.

Pre-game events include a tailgate party in the Stadium Exhibition Hall, including live music, big screen televisions showing other NFL games, food, performance by the Seagals, autograph session, face painting, and games for the kids. The National Anthem will be sung by the Singing Nuns from Spokane and at half-time, events will include NFL punt, pass, and kick.

To reserve seats, watch for the ticket order form with the October 10, 2003 payroll, or visit www.secstate.wa.gov/productivityboard.